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Former Ambassador to France Evan Griffith Galbraith Dies at Age 79

With sadness, we note the death this week of former U.S. Ambassador to France Evan Griffith Galbraith. Appointed by President Ronald Reagan, Ambassador Galbraith served in Paris from 1981 to 1985. In 2005, he was appointed by Donald Rumsfeld as the Secretary of Defense's Representative in Europe and as Defense Advisor at the U.S. NATO Mission in Brussels, a position he held until 2007.

Evan Galbraith was born July 2, 1928, in Toledo, Ohio, and graduated from Yale University in 1950 and Harvard Law School in 1953. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1957. An investment banker for much of his career, Galbraith was an advisory director of Morgan Stanley. He also served as Chairman of the Board of the National Review.

Ambassador Galbraith spent some 20 years in Europe, as Director of Morgan et Cie in Paris in the 1960s, then moving to London with Banker's Trust International and Dillon and Reade in the 1970s. He held positions on several corporate boards including Groupe Lagardère S.A. Paris; he was Chairman of the Board of the New York subsidiary of Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy from 1995 to 1998.

An avid sailor, he crossed the Atlantic twice and the Pacific once with his friend and sailing companion, William F. Buckley. Galbraith also authored two books which were published in the U.S. and in France.

After a 15-year battle with cancer, Ambassador Galbraith died at his home in New York City on January 21, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marie Helene "Bootsey" Rockwell, sons Evan and John, daughter Christina, brother John, as well as his grandchildren, nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be sent to the National Review Institute, 215 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10016.